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FCC Mail Room

# Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

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October 14, 2014

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Dear Ms. Dortch,

I represent the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association, our professional law enforcement and public safety organization, which is dedicated to the safe and secure well-being of Louisianans across the state. Founded in 1938, the Louisiana Sheriffs' Association now comprises Louisiana's 65 sheriffs and nearly 14,000 deputy sheriffs. As the organization has grown, we have become the voice for Louisiana's chief law enforcement officers, representing large and small, urban and rural offices throughout the state.

I support the concept of state-of-the-art broadband for the sake of improving public safety on behalf of my organization. It is for this reason that I strongly urge approval of the AT&T and DirecTV merger. A combined AT&T and DirecTV would help deploy additional high-speed Internet access to millions of customer locations throughout the majority of the states in the United States, including tens of thousands of locations in Louisiana.

The high-speed Internet that the AT&T DirecTV would bring to many involved with Louisiana's emergency response community – including my sheriffs and deputy sheriff and our extended law enforcement “family” – useful benefits.

My members would be able to have seamless integration of services – TV, mobile and video. The public safety community would have access to a first class broadband network that incorporates the latest functionality, such as text messaging, photos, diagrams, and video, that currently are unavailable in some of Louisiana's rural areas.

With all this in mind, I encourage the FCC to approve the merger. I believe it will help those who seek to preserve the public's safety in Louisiana and in our nation as a whole. It would equip professional law enforcement with tools and efficiencies to fulfill the critical duties with which they are charged.

High-speed Internet access is a critical component to ensuring that public safety operations like ours can satisfy their obligations to the American public.

Sincerely Yours,

Mike Ranatza, Executive Director, Louisiana Sheriffs' Association

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